

## Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vasculoprotective composition comprising an ER $\beta$  ligand.
2. A vasculoprotective composition according to claim 1 wherein the ER $\beta$  ligand is an ER $\beta$  agonist.
3. A vasculoprotective composition according to claim 1 wherein the ER $\beta$  ligand is an ER $\beta$  antagonist
4. A vasculoprotective composition according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ comprising an ER $\beta$ -selective agonist.
5. A pharmaceutical composition useful for the treatment of vasculopathies comprising an ER $\beta$  agonist.
6. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 comprising an ER $\beta$ -selective agonist.
7. A composition according to claim 4 ~~or 6~~ in which the binding affinity of the ER $\beta$  agonist to ER $\beta$  is at least 10 times greater than the binding affinity to ER $\alpha$ .
8. A composition according to claim 7 in which the binding affinity of the agonist to ER $\beta$  is at least 20 times greater than to ER $\alpha$ .
9. The use of an ER $\beta$  agonist in the treatment of vasculopathies.
10. The use of an ER $\beta$ -selective agonist in the treatment of vasculopathies.
11. The use according to claim 10 in which the vasculopathy is a fibroproliferative condition.

12. The use according to claim 11 in which the fibroproliferative vasculopathy is selected from restenosis, angioplasty, chronic allograft rejection, diabetic angiopathy, autoimmune angiopathy, arteriosclerosis, and atherosclerosis.

13. A method of inducing a vasculoprotective effect in a subject, the method comprising treating the subject with an ER $\beta$  agonist.

14. A method of inducing a vasculoprotective effect according to claim 13 in which the ER $\beta$  agonist has a higher affinity for ER $\beta$  than ER $\alpha$ .

15. A method of inducing a vasculoprotective effect in a subject according to claim 14 in which the binding affinity of the agonist to ER $\beta$  is at least 10 times greater than to ER $\alpha$ .

16. A method of inducing a vasculoprotective effect in a subject according to claim 15 in which the binding affinity of the agonist to ER $\beta$  is at least 20 times greater than to ER $\alpha$ .

17. A method of inducing a vasculoprotective effect in which the effect is decrease of intimal thickness.

18. A method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 17~~ <sup>claim 13</sup> in which the vasculoprotective effect is induced to treat a fibroproliferative vasculopathy.

19. A method according to claim 18 in which the fibroproliferative vasculopathy is selected from restenosis, angioplasty, chronic allograft rejection, diabetic angiopathy, autoimmune angiopathy, arteriosclerosis and atherosclerosis.

20. A composition, use or method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ <sup>claim 1</sup> in which the ER $\beta$  selective agonist is genistein or a chemical derivative or structural analogue thereof.

21. A use or method according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 20~~ <sup>claim 9</sup> in which uterotrophic effects are minimised or do not result.

Claim 13

A 22. A method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 24~~ in which the subject is a mammal.

23. A method according to claim 22 in which the mammal is a primate.

24. A method according to claim 23 in which the mammal is human.

25. A method according to claim 22, ~~23 or 24~~ in which the mammal is female.

26. A method according to claim 25 in which the female is post-menopausal.

27. A method of producing artificial tissues or organs the method including the step of treating the tissue or organ with an ER $\beta$  agonist.

28. A method according to claim 27 in which the tissue or organ is a blood vessel.

29. Artificial tissues or organs obtainable by a method according to claim 27 ~~or 28~~.

100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10